



MPA Achieves International Green Standard

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The MPA's ISO certification team led the way to achieving international recognition for environmental management standards at the Port of Baltimore.

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"ISO certification demonstrates that environmental stewardship is an essential element of the MPA's mission," said Kathleen Broadwater, Deputy Executive Director of MPA. "Our systematic approach to environmental management raises the stewardship ethic throughout the port community and ensures that we meet or exceed our compliance requirements."

To win ISO certification, the MPA developed and implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) that controls and continually improves the environmental impact of its activities. The EMS ensures compliance with regulations, fosters environmental stewardship, and establishes management procedures for regular audits and improvement plans.

The process began in 2006, when an MPA team inventoried the range of practices through which port operations impact both the local and global environment. This effort touched on everything from cargo handling and facility management to the automotive and marine fleet, regulatory requirements, and purchasing practices.

The MPA then identified the activities that could significantly impact the environment and created improvement plans. As actions are completed, the MPA sets and pursues new goals. Examples include:

- Reduce air emissions from MPA sources.



- Phase out the use of underground storage tanks to reduce the potential of petroleum leaks.
- Improve stormwater management practices all MPA facilities.
- Ensure spill prevention and response plans were in place and practiced.
- Improve recycling and waste management practices, which include not only conventional paper recycling but the recycling and re-use of large-volume materials such as steel, wood, and tires.

"The MPA mission is to maintain a thriving port while setting a high bar for environmental stewardship," Broadwater said. "Receiving ISO certification demonstrates the depth of this commitment, which the EMS will carry into the future."